



COUNTY OF SONOMA  
**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Commission on Human Rights*

*November 27, 2006*

**Permit & Resource Management Department  
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404**

***MINUTES***

**Commissioners Present:** Juanita Ashe, Abigail Barajas, Judy Boyce, Herb Genelly, Dalia Goldschmidt-Sheff, Sally Miller, Chris Rohde, Anne-Jeanne Rothchild, Marie Sparks, Harry Troutt, David Wilson

**Commissioners Absent:** Catherine Andrade (Not Notified), Reece Foxen (Notified)

**Community Members Present:** Kitten Troutt

**Staff Present:** Richard Corbin, Dawn Matheny, Maggie Martin

- I. Call to Order/Introductions:** Sparks called to order at 5:35 PM.  
Matheny introduced Richard Corbin, the newly appointed Assistant Director of Human Resources. The Community Involvement Division reports to Corbin.
- II. Consent Items:**  
Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved.  
Approval of October 23, 2006 Minutes: The Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- III. Commission Update:** There remain openings in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Districts.
- IV. Supervisor Communication Update:**  
Genelly reported that he spoke with Supervisor Kerns regarding the Commission's plans to recognize the Petaluma Police Department, plans to show "Not in Our Town," and his participation in a session with Restorative Justice.  
Miller reported that she sent her quarterly summary of activity and update to Supervisor Smith and invited him to attend the Coffee Awards event. He continues to express his appreciation and support for the Commission.  
Troutt reported that he had sent his bi-monthly update to Supervisor Reilly and had seen him at a local event for a new senior center.
- V. Public Comment:**  
Robert Villegas, a resident of Monte Rio, expressed his interest in working with the Commission. He is retired from PacBell and has extensive volunteer experience with the Volunteer Civil Court and the Sheriff's Department as well as serving as a court-appointed special advocate.
- VI. Old Business:** None.

## VII. New Business:

Position Descriptions for Liaisons and Coordinators: Sparks shared her notes on the roles and duties of appointed positions and asked that Commissioners respond to her directly with their comments and suggestions. She would like to receive these in time to incorporate them into an updated summary for the January Commission meeting.

## VIII. Staff Report:

Ethics Training: Matheny reminded those Commissioners who had not previously attended Ethics Training that they need to complete this requirement before January 1, 2007. She explained that the Office has arranged to have the video available for viewing at a couple of times and that there is an on-line course available as well.

December Commission Meeting: Matheny reminded Commissioners that the December Commission meeting had been cancelled by vote of the Commission.

Update on Staff's Current Activities: Matheny explained that staff has been primarily focused on arrangements for the Coffee Awards event on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

However, with the elimination of our storage space, staff has been involved in reorganization our records and exhibit materials. Teresa Giusto has been able to work with us on this project, but the archiving of historical files and materials will be an extended project.

Finally, the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to make the formal declaration of Human Rights Day in Sonoma County during its meeting on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged Commissioners to attend. (This item subsequently removed from the Board agenda, since the Gold Resolution declaring the day had been previously issued.)

## IX. Activity Reports:

Ad Hoc Events Committee: Martin gave an update on the plans for the upcoming event. She announced that Marie Sparks had recruited a friend, Jack Robinson to take responsibility for running the kitchen. She distributed a list of duty assignments to Commissioners. She explained that Commissioners were welcome to come help set up for the event but asked that everyone arrive no later than 6:00 PM to help with greeting attendees.

At last count, we have over 350 people attending. Congratulations are due to the Troutts who sold over \$1,000 in tickets.

Education: No report.

Public Relations & Marketing: No report as all everyone is focused on the Coffee Awards Event. However, Rothchild indicated that she plans to have the PowerPoint presentation completed in January.

Community Action Committees (CACs): Sparks reported that she has been collecting contact information on community organizations from local Chambers of Commerce to build a data based. She urged Commissioners to provide staff with information on organizations they are aware of in their respective areas.

Community Events:

- **Cinco de Mayo:** Sparks asked if any Commissioners are willing to take on the responsibility for being the liaison to the Sheriff's task force planning this event. The group has started to meet and will begin meeting more frequently in early 2007. Rothchild and Rohde both said they might be able to help in this regard.

Community Response: Genelly reported on two activities in which he has been involved in the Petaluma area.

- He was asked to participate in a Restorative Justice hearing for a youth who had charged with vandalizing a local church. His role was to clarify what qualifies as a hate crime. The result was that the incident was not hate-related. He felt the process offers a positive alternative to the criminal justice system.
- Genelly announced that the Miller will represent the Commission in presenting a plaque to the Chief of the Petaluma Police Department before the City Council at 3:00 PM on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. He urged Commissioners to attend.

Criminal Justice: Miller reported that, following the recent training session, she has received periodic updates on hate group activity in the Bay Area.

Current Events & Press Response: Goldschmidt-Sheff reported that she had received 3 responses to her e-mail “survey” on local periodicals. Based on this, Wilson agreed to cover the *Sonoma Index* and local radio, Rothchild and Genelly both agreed to report on articles of interest that appear in the *Press Democrat*, and Genelly also volunteered to cover Petaluma’s *Argus Courier*.

**X. District Report / Commissioner Announcements:**

Safe Schools Program Luncheon: Sparks and Martin represented the Commission at this event. They were both impressed by the Program’s scope and accomplishments. They recommend that the Commission explore ways to partner with Community Matters (sponsoring organization) to support this program as part of the Commission’s educational efforts. Based on the information provided at the luncheon, this may be a cost-effective alternative to our current educational activities at local schools.

Restorative Justice Class at SSU: Matheny made a presentation about the Commission and the Pyramid of Hate at a class on Restorative Justice. The information was very well received by the students and teachers.

**XI. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2007 at 5:30 PM.

**XII. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.